

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
for the Development of a Public Safety Building,
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to provide funding assistance for the construction of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Public Safety Building. The facility will provide space for Tribal Police, the Emergency Management Program, Central Dispatch and fire equipment and hazmat response vehicles. Partial funding for this project is provided through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). The remaining funds will come from Indian Community Development Block Grant Program (ICDGB).

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared. FEMA is required to review the Proposed Action and possible alternative solutions to evaluate the potential impacts on the human and natural environment. Three alternatives were evaluated in the EA: No Action, constructing a new facility at the Stanhope Property located in the area southwest of the Highway 331 and Mission Intersection (Preferred Action), and construction of a new facility at the area northeast of Highway 331 and Wildhorse Resort driveway (located north of Wildhorse Resort and Casino). Compliance with applicable Executive Orders and other environmental laws are documented in the EA.

Several open houses/workshops and public meetings have been held on this project to gather public input. A public hearing for the Zone Change required for the Preferred Action was held by the Natural Resources Commission on February 8, 2005, continued on February 22, 2005, and concluded on March 8, 2005, in the Tribal Services Building South Conference Room on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, 73239 Confederated Way, Pendleton, Oregon 97801. Notice of this hearing was published in Eastern Oregonian on January 28, 2005 and in the Confederated Umatilla Journal on February 3, 2005.

Copies of the draft EA are available for viewing at the CTUIR Tribal Planning Office, 73239 Confederated Way, Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 276-3099. The EA is also available for review online at the FEMA environmental website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. Due to extensive previous public involvement during the development of this project, the comment period for this EA will be open for 15 days after publication of this notice. If no comments are received, then FEMA will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and no further public notice will be made.

Comments about the EA should be submitted in writing to Mark Eberlein, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region X, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA 98021, or by fax: 425-487-4622 or by e-mail to mark.eberlein@dhs.gov within fifteen (15) days of this notice.